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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3929

UNCLAS MADRID 002223

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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DEPARTMENT FOR TONY CORN, EUR/PPD

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPAO](#) [MASS](#) [MPOS](#) [SP](#)
SUBJECT: SPAIN SENSITIVITIES RULE OUT GREAT WHITE FLEET
CENTENNIAL

REF: STATE 152640

Post appreciates the opportunity to consider potential public diplomacy opportunities related to the anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt's "Great White Fleet." Though the United States enjoys excellent naval cooperation with Spain today, and Spain has been supportive of joint efforts such as the Africa Partnership Station, plans for commemorating the 1907-1909 circumnavigation (reftel) are more likely to generate bad feelings than good will. Any attention drawn to the centenary voyage would be an unwelcome historical reminder of the defeat of the Spanish Caribbean fleet in Santiago de Cuba in July 1898 and of the Spanish Pacific fleet at Manila Bay earlier that year by the same fleet. U.S. Mission Madrid respectfully declines the invitation to participate in this initiative.

AGUIRRE